

**Lassina Diarrassouba  
24-15 Queens Plaza North  
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101**

March 6, 2013

Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

My name is Lassina Diarrassouba, and I am the brother of Sidiki Diarrassouba and the uncle of Amar, the 6-year old child who was killed last week. Though we are all grieving the loss of our young relative, I must take a moment to express our outrage at your colossal insensitivity and total lack of compassion.

I am referring to your comments published in the news to the effect that my brother and sister-in-law should have walked their children to school and not rely upon the school bus services, and that parents need to tell their kids to look both ways prior to crossing the streets.

Last Thursday, my nephews took the bus to school. When they disembarked, they waited for the green light and crossed in the pedestrian intersection. What did they or his parents do wrong?



**Amar smiling with outstretched arms with his three brothers and his cousin. Photo taken last month.**

As you know the school crossing guard who should have been present to provide a safe escort was absent on Thursday. The tractor trailer flatbed truck that struck down my nephew did not belong on that street. The Police Department has the responsibility to make sure trucks stay off this street. Of course they cannot have a police officer on every corner but the NYPD has access to thousands of cameras which could be used for this purpose. And this is not the first time a child was hit by a truck near this school, as you know.

My brother and his family are grateful to those who stepped forward to help, especially the teacher from PS 155 who protected Amar's brother and Dr. Melanie Canon, who stopped and heroically assisted Amar. We are all grateful for the outpouring of compassion and sympathy we have received from so many New Yorkers.

However, what we would want and expect is that as Mayor and the one responsible for city services, that you not assume the innocent are at fault and try to shift the blame from where it properly lies. If you have nothing compassionate to say, it would be better to say nothing at all.

Sincerely,

Lassina Diarrassouba